

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (PRESIDENT LEONE) IT

SUBJECT: PSI CONCERNS REGARDING LEONE VISIT

REF: ROME 12165

1. AN UNOFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY, ADN-KRONOS, COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE "CLOSE" TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY RELEASED A STORY DURING THE WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 7-8 THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY WAS CONTEMPLATING A DEMAND THAT PRESIDENT LEONE BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATE BY A "QUALIFIED EXPONENT" OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THIS STORY WAS PICKED UP BY A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND BUT SIGNIFICANTLY NOT RPT NOT BY THE PSI ORGAN AVANTI. PAPERS WHICH CARRIED THE STORY STATED THAT THE REASON THE SOCIALISTS DESIRED TO HAVE AN AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DELEGATION WAS TO COUNTER THE RISK THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT ACCEPT, DURING HIS VISIT IN THE UNITED STATES, NATO OBLIGATIONS FOR ITALY (PARA. 7 REFTEL).

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2. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGAN, LA VOCE REPUBBLICANA WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL, SAYING THAT A DENIAL SHOULD BE EXPECTED, UNLESS THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST DIRECTORATE IS ELIGIBLE FOR COMMITMENT TO AN INSANE ASYLUM. A LESS EXCITABLE VIEW WAS TAKEN BY THE NEW BUT ALREADY WELL-ESTABLISHED IL GIORNALE, WHICH POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN PRESIDENT LEONE'S DELEGATION BY ALDO MORO WHO, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, WOULD OF COURSE REPRESENT THE ENTIRE COALITION. BY AND LARGE, THE PRESS HAS NOTED THAT NO OFFICIAL SOCIALIST VOICE HAS PICKED UP THIS STORY AND IL GIORNALE STATES FLATLY THAT IF SUCH A SOCIALIST REQUEST IS MADE, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR BY THE QUIRINALE PALACE.

3. A QUIRINALE SOURCE (CORTESE) WAS WELL AWARE OF THE ADN-KRONOS STORY BUT DOUBTED THAT IT HAD SUBSTANCE. AT THE MEANTIME PLANNING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT CONTINUES ON THE URGENT BASIS REQUIRED BY THE TIME SCHEDULE, WITH NO ATTENTION BEING PAID TO THE ADN-KRONOS STORY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (GUIDI) BRUSHES THE STORY ASIDE, SAYING THAT IT WILL BE SIMPLY IGNORED. VOLPE

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